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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/516,516	06/29/2005	Gou Shimada	Q84937	5133
23373	7590	01/07/2010	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			PRAKASAM, RAMYA G	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3651	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			01/07/2010	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/516,516	Applicant(s) SHIMADA, GOU
	Examiner RAMYA PRAKASAM	Art Unit 3651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2009.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 10-20 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 16-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 10-14 and 20 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 15 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 10-14 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugano (US Patent No. 6,485,287) in view of Colby (US Patent No. 4,944,906).

Sugano discloses a screw for use in an extruder comprising:

- ❑ A cylinder (See Figure 1);
- ❑ Wherein a height of a flight portion of that part of the screw (11) located below the hopper (5) port is lower than a height of a flight portion located at a downstream side, and said height at said part varies continuously in a peripheral direction over a predetermined rotational angle of the screw and the predetermined rotational angle is an angle beginning at 90 degrees before a position where the height of the flight is lowest and ending at 90 degrees after the position where the height of the flight is lowest (See Figure 1 at 8).
- ❑ Wherein a portion where the height of the flight portion is lower than the height of the flight portion on the downstream side has an angle of 180 or less (See Figure 1).

- Wherein the number of threads on an upstream side of the screw is made smaller than a number of threads on the downstream side (See Figures 1 and 6 – there are less blade portions on the upstream side).
- Wherein an interval of the threads on an upstream side is made wider than an interval of the threads on the downstream side (See Figures 1 and 6 – the portion between the blade portions is larger on the upstream side).
- Wherein the cylinder has a consistent inner diameter from the hopper port to a last thread of the screw at the downstream end (See Figures 1 and 6).

Sugano, however, does not provide that the height of the blade portion of the flight (which applicant defines as the flight portion) at an upstream end be lower and has a smaller diameter than the flight portion at the downstream end. Colby discloses a blade portion at an upstream end (23) that is lower and has a smaller diameter (See Column 7, lines 63-65) than the blade portion at a downstream end (14) for the purpose of providing different levels of clearance (See Column 7, lines 63-67). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify Sugano by utilizing a blade portion at an upstream end that is lower and has a smaller diameter than the blade portion at a downstream end for the purpose of providing different levels of clearance.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claim 15 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claim 15 recites a screw for use in an extruder with the unique limitation of having the portion of the screw located below the hopper port be 2%-6% smaller than the diameter of the screw at the downstream side. This limitation, in combination with the other limitations of the claims, were not found in the relevant prior art.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RAMYA PRAKASAM whose telephone number is (571)272-6011. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 9am - 6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene Crawford can be reached on (571)272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Gene Crawford/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3651

1/2/2010
RGP